

Docket no. 200311191-1

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 7, 2006. In view of the following, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

I. Rejection of claims 10-16 and 18-22 under 35 USC § 102(e) based on Teo et al.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejected claims 10-16 and 18-22 based on Teo et al. Applicants traverse these rejections as applied to the claims as amended.

Claim 10 is amended to recite "the movable pad rotatable about a pivot and having a distal end, the pivot being positioned farther from the sheets than the distal end when the movable pad is in a retracted position." In contrast, the shaft 415 of Teo et al. is positioned closer to the Teo et al. stack 109 when the Teo et al. kicker 203 is in the retracted position shown in FIG. 4C of Teo et al. Consequently, because Teo et al. does not teach this element of claim 10, Teo et al. does not anticipate claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 11 is amended to recite "the pivot being downstream from the pad." In contrast, the shaft 415 of Teo et al. is upstream from the Teo et al. kicker 203. Consequently, because Teo et al. does not teach this element of claim 11, Teo et al. does not anticipate claim 11. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 12-15 depend upon claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 11 is allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 16 and 18-22 are cancelled, thus rendering moot the rejections thereof.

Docket no. 200311191-1

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17, 24, and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these objections are overcome.

Claims 1-6 and 23 are allowed.

III. Conclusion.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

8 MAY 2006

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